

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4655

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Mr. FINE (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel
5 PTSD Collaborative Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs reports
2 that about 29 percent of veterans who served in Op-
3 eration Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring
4 Freedom have had post-traumatic stress disorder
5 (PTSD) at some point in their life. In addition, that
6 figure amounts to about 21 percent of Gulf War vet-
7 erans and up to 10 percent of Vietnam veterans.

8 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs reports
9 that among women veterans of the conflicts in Iraq
10 and Afghanistan, almost 20 percent have been diag-
11 nosed with PTSD.

12 (3) In the United States, it is thought that 70
13 percent of Americans have experienced at least one
14 traumatic event in their lifetime, and approximately
15 20 percent of those persons have struggled or con-
16 tinue to struggle with symptoms of PTSD.

17 (4) Studies show that PTSD has links to home-
18 lessness and substance abuse in the United States.
19 The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that
20 approximately 11 percent of the homeless population
21 are veterans and the Substance Abuse and Mental
22 Health Services Administration estimates that about
23 7 percent of veterans have a substance abuse dis-
24 order.

1 (5) Our ally Israel, under constant attack from
2 terrorist groups, experiences similar issues with
3 Israeli veterans facing PTSD symptoms. Tel Aviv
4 University's National Center for Traumatic Stress
5 and Resilience found that 12 percent of soldiers who
6 served in the Gaza war experience severe PTSD.

7 (6) Current treatment options in the United
8 States focus on cognitive therapy, exposure therapy,
9 or eye movement desensitization and reprocessing,
10 but the United States must continue to look for
11 more effective treatments. Several leading Israeli
12 hospitals, academic institutions, and nonprofits dedi-
13 cate research and services to treating PTSD.

14 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM FOR INCREASED COOPERATION**
15 **ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER RE-**
16 **SEARCH BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND**
17 **ISRAEL.**

18 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
19 gress that the Secretary of Defense, acting through the
20 Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Re-
21 search Program, should seek to explore scientific collabo-
22 ration between American academic institutions and non-
23 profit research entities, and Israeli institutions with exper-
24 tise in researching, diagnosing, and treating post-trau-
25 matic stress disorder.

1 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense, in
2 coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and
3 the Secretary of State, shall award grants to eligible enti-
4 ties to carry out collaborative research between the United
5 States and Israel with respect to post-traumatic stress dis-
6 orders. The Secretary of Defense shall carry out the grant
7 program under this section in accordance with the agree-
8 ment titled “Agreement Between the Government of the
9 United States of America and the Government of Israel
10 on the United States-Israel Binational Science Founda-
11 tion”, dated September 27, 1972.

12 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
13 grant under this section, an entity shall be an academic
14 institution or a nonprofit entity located in the United
15 States.

16 (d) AWARD.—The Secretary shall award grants
17 under this section to eligible entities that—

18 (1) carry out a research project that—

19 (A) addresses a requirement in the area of
20 post-traumatic stress disorders that the Sec-
21 retary determines appropriate to research using
22 such grant; and

23 (B) is conducted by the eligible entity and
24 an entity in Israel under a joint research agree-
25 ment; and

1 (2) meet such other criteria that the Secretary
2 may establish.

3 (e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
4 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
5 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
6 containing such commitments and information as the Sec-
7 retary may require.

8 (f) GIFT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may accept,
9 hold, and administer, any gift of money made on the con-
10 dition that the gift be used for the purpose of the grant
11 program under this section. Such gifts of money accepted
12 under this subsection shall be deposited in the Treasury
13 in the Department of Defense General Gift Fund and shall
14 be available, subject to appropriation, without fiscal year
15 limitation.

16 (g) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date on which an eligible entity completes a research
18 project using a grant under this section, the Secretary
19 shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

20 (1) a description of how the eligible entity used
21 the grant; and

22 (2) an evaluation of the level of success of the
23 research project.

24 (h) TERMINATION.—The authority to award grants
25 under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7

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1 years after the date on which the first such grant is
2 awarded.

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